

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action dated July 9, 2007.

In the Office Action on pages 2-3, paragraphs 2-5, the patent examiner questions the use of certain language in the preamble of claims 1 - 52, and other words in claim 15 and in claim 10 (a 112 rejection for claim 10 (corrected by referring to “attached”) and an objection for claims 1 - 52 (resolved by changing the preamble) and 15 (resolved by referencing “actuation sleeve”)).

The Examiner stated that claims 1 - 52 should recite “a proximal actuator in combination with an actuation sleeve and a medical device.” Applicant has amended the claims per the Examiner’s request in an effort to move this case forward. It is respectfully submitted that this change to the claims 1 - 52 was not necessary since the claims, as previously presented, had these concepts positively recited therein. However, Applicant’s further arguments with respect to this language would only further delay the issuance of a patent on the present invention, which the Examiner now indicates is patentable over the prior art. Hence, the changes to the claims herein are meant to be an accommodation to the PTO and not meant to limit the invention beyond what was presented earlier.

In the Office Action on pages 3-7, paragraphs 6-21, the patent examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 7-19, 24-31, 39, 40, 45-52 as being non-patentable in view of certain prior or pre-existing technology or art disclosed in the following references:

U.S. Patent No.4,084,594 to Mosior
U.S. Patent No.3,609,638 to Darrey
U.S. Patent No. 4,347,846 to Dormia

The examiner indicated that claims 3-6, 20-23, 32-38 and 41-44 are allowable and patentable. See page 7, paragraphs 22, 23 of the Office Action.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the critical items in claims 2 and 3. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the combination of claims 1 + 2 + 3 was patentable. Claim 16 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. Allowance of claims 16 - 17 is requested since claim 16 is now similar, in general, to claim 1, as amended. Claim 18 was amended to include the substance of claims 19 and 20, therefore, the Examiner should approve the combination of claims 18 + 19 + 20 and also approve the combination of claims 39 + 40 + 41.

Other changes to the claims are made to conform to the change in the preamble.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections against claims 1 - 52 and allow the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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